

### **REMARKS**

Claims 55, 57, 66, 67, 71, 74, 75, 77-81, 83, 84 and 86-112 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 77, 80, 81, 84, 99, 100, 102 and 103 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 55, 66 and 101 have been amended. New claims 113-118 have been added. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification. In particular, support can be found on pages 5, lines 13-14 and 63, line 3. As a result claims 55, 57, 66, 67, 71, 74, 75, 78, 79, 83, 86-98, 101 and 104-118 are pending for examination. No new matter has been added.

### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

The Office Action rejected claims 66, 67, 83, 84 and 109-112 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shen et al.

The Applicant maintains that the claims now pending are not anticipated by Shen et al.

In addition, the Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of any cancelled claims as well as the claims as originally filed in future applications.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 66, 67, 83, 84 and 109-112.

### **CONCLUSION**

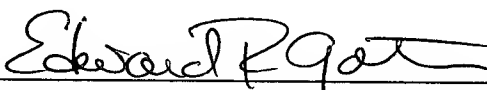
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. 09/359,920

Art Unit: 1651

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Docket No. H00535.70009.US  
Dated: April 25, 2003  
x4/25/03

Marked-up Version of Claims

55. (Thrice Amended) A composition of matter comprising:

a conjugate of a nonextracellular matrix protein, nonlabeling agent and a carboxamide-carrying linking molecule,

wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of [a sunscreen agent, a cosmetic, an enzyme, a coloring agent, a pharmaceutical agent, a member of a ligand/receptor pair, a tissue sealant, a bulking agent, a hair conditioning agent, a hair fixative, a moisturizing agent, a depilatory agent, ]an anti-nerve gas agent, an anti-neurotoxin agent and an antiglaucoma agent[a film forming agent, a vitamin, an insect repellant and a component of a high affinity noncovalent coupling pair],

wherein the agent is not itself a substrate of transglutaminase,

wherein the agent, free of conjugation to the linking molecule, does not contain the linking molecule, and

wherein the linking molecule comprises at least two contiguous linked glutamines, and is a substrate of transglutaminase.

66. (Thrice Amended) A composition of matter comprising:

a conjugate of a nonextracellular matrix protein, nonlabeling agent and a polymer,

wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of [a sunscreen agent, a cosmetic, an enzyme, a bulking agent, a hair conditioning agent, a hair fixative, a moisturizing agent, a depilatory agent, ]an anti-nerve gas agent, an anti-neurotoxin agent and an antiglaucoma agent[a film forming agent, a vitamin, a coloring agent, a pharmaceutical agent, a member of a ligand/receptor pair, a tissue sealant, an insect repellant and a component of a high affinity noncovalent coupling pair],

wherein the agent is not itself a substrate of transglutaminase, and

wherein the polymer comprises at least 3 contiguous lysines attached to one another by peptide bonds, and is a substrate of transglutaminase.

101. (Amended) The composition of claim 66[100], wherein the agent[enzyme] is selected from the group consisting of a cholinesterase and a phosphodiesterase.